



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,153	02/11/2004	Hsiu-Chuan Lien	MSCP0024USA	2152
27765	7590	05/29/2009	EXAMINER	
NORTH AMERICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION			WEI, ZHENG	
P.O. BOX 506				
MERRIFIELD, VA 22116			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2192	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/29/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

winstonhsu.uspto@gmail.com
Patent.admin.uspto.Rcv@naipo.com
mis.ap.uspto@naipo.com.tw

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/708,153	Applicant(s) LIEN ET AL.	
	Examiner ZHENG WEI	Art Unit 2192	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-8 and 17-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-8 and 17-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 02/23/2009.
2. Claims 1, 2, and 17-19 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 17-21 remain pending and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 02/23/2009, in particular on pages 6-7, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. For example:
 - At page 6, Applicants disagree with the Examiner regarding to the response to arguments for the limitation about execution both paths for "each event" in previous office action. The Applicants submit that claim 21 recites such limitation. Examiner would like to thank Applicants for pointing out the limitations. However, Examiner's response above in previous office action was regarding the Applicants' arguments for claim 1. Claim 1 merely recites the limitation "executing the event...making the event undergo the error processing path" by "resetting...in the error state" which is the condition to take the "error processing path" as recited in claim 1 ("...taking a general processing path when the peripheral device is working well or an error processing path when the peripheral device is in an error state"). That is why claim 1 does not recite any limitation for taking the general processing path.

- At page 7, second paragraph, the Applicants submit that “a firmware designer cannot achieve the present application by only teaching from Sanchez’s application because Sanchez’s application provides teaching the software art, not in the firmware art...”. However, the Examiner’s position is that Applicants’ invention directed to reset parameter to simulate the error state and execute the event test script file for different paths, such testing control feature has to be performed by a testing system e.g. testing host/testing target which has more control for simulate error states. The BISO code only outputs the diagnose code as recited. Therefore, Examiner interprets said debugging method based on the testing system not only the firmware device.
- At page 7, second paragraph, the Applicants submit that Sanchez’s method would still fail to test both processing paths. Same as in previous response, Examiner interpreted the basic idea of Sanchez is used to inject faults and errors to simulate the error condition/state for the testing. Therefore, said simulation can also be incorporated with Schieve’s method in step 470 of Fig.4 during executing the test to debug the program, it would also have been obvious to use code injecting/simulating method to simulate/inject all kinds of code for handling different states including both error and general processing states.
- At page 7, forth paragraph, the Applicants indicate that claim 1 has been amended by replacing term “an implementation under test” with “BIOS program code”. However, such “BIOS program code” as recited in the claim,

can be reasonable interpreted as when executed, only perform “outputting a diagnosis code of a breakpoint”. The other steps in claim 1 including resetting parameter and executing event do not recite any relationship/limitation with BISO and thus are not necessary limited executing by BIOS program code but could be treated as executing by Schieve e.g. Fig.4, step 470. Therefore, Schieve and Sanchez still teach all the limitations as recited in claim 1 for “BIOS program code” and for the similar “driver program” as in claim 18.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 17:

Acronym, like BIOS in claims above, which needs to be spelled out once in the claim 1, as their claimed intermediate meanings tend to change over the time. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2192

7. Claims 1-2, 7 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schieve (Schieve et al. US 5,463,766) in view of Sanchez (Sanchez et al., US 6,477,666 – art of record)

Claim 1:

Schieve discloses a method for testing and debugging computer programs, the method comprising:

- Setting a plurality of breakpoints corresponding to a plurality of events in BIOS program code, each event being a test executed to a peripheral device (see for example Fig.4, step 410, “Detect Peripherals” and related text) and taking a general processing path when the peripheral device is working well (see for example, step 480, “Did test pass? Yes” and related text) or an error processing path when the peripheral device is out of order (see for example, step 490 “Display Error/Status and Information” and related text);
- Executing the BIOS program code for outputting a diagnosis code (fig.4, step 480, output YES/NO) of a breakpoint (see for example, step 470, “Execute Test” and related text);
- Resetting a parameter of the event corresponding to the diagnosis code (see for example, Fig.4, step 480, “Did Test Pass?” and “Yes/No” paths and related text; The “Yes/No” parameter has to be reset each time after step 470);
- Executing the event corresponding to the diagnosis code according to the reset parameter for making the event undergo the error processing path (see for example, step 490 “Display Error/Status and Information” and related text);

But Schieve does not explicitly disclose resetting a parameter to simulate the peripheral device being in the error state throughout execution of the event corresponding to the diagnosis code. However, Sanchez in the same analogous art of testing the computer program about reliable and proper handling of various faults under various conditions, discloses a method to simulate the error state throughout execution (injecting faults and error) (see for example, Fig.9, step 70, “Configure Program/Application for automatic fault injection by setting one or more breakpoints within the program/application wherein the breakpoints are where faults may be injected”; step 72, “automatic fault injector is initiated” and related text). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Sanchez’s fault injection method to simulate the error state of peripheral device in Schieve. One would have been motivated to do so to test the reliable and proper handling of various faults and exceptions under various conditions as suggested by Sanchez (see for example, ABSTRACT, lines 2-4, “to test the reliable and proper handling of various faults and exceptions under various conditions”)

Claim 2:

Schieve and Sanchez disclose the method for program debugging as in claim 1, Sanchez further discloses wherein the method further comprising:

- after executing the event corresponding to the diagnosis code according to the reset parameter for making the event undergo the error processing path for making the BIOS program code make all events undergo the error

- processing path (see for example, see for example, Fig.9, step 70, “Configure Program/Application for automatic fault injection by setting one or more breakpoints within the program/application wherein the breakpoints are where faults may be injected”; step 72, “automatic fault injector is initiated” and related text),
- repeating the steps of executing the BIOS program code for outputting the diagnosis code of the breakpoint (see for example, Fig.9, steps 74-80 and col.5, lines 46-50, “When the Event Hook code is executed, then either the Java byte code is allowed to continue or the fault is dynamically inserted. If the latter event is to occur, then the automatic fault injection algorithm is executed by Automatic Fault Injector 30”),
 - resetting the parameter of the event corresponding to the diagnosis code (see for example, Fig.6, about resetting attributes parameter, “Fail”, “Retry”, “Abort”; Fig.7, item 44, “Inject the fault based upon the value of a variable” and related text) and
 - executing the event corresponding to the diagnosis code according to the reset parameter for making the event undergo the error processing path (see for example, Fig.9 and col.5, lines 46-50, “When the Event Hook code is executed, then either the Java byte code is allowed to continue or the fault is dynamically inserted. If the latter event is to occur, then the automatic fault injection algorithm is executed by Automatic Fault Injector 30”).

Claim 7:

Art Unit: 2192

Schieve and Sanchez disclose the method for program debugging as in claim 1 above, which has an error handler to display error message (see for example, Fig.4, step 490, "Display Error /Status and Information"). Schieve also discloses a step of system reset (see for example, Fig.3, step 380, "Reset Button Pressed?"), but does not explicitly disclose the error handler is a system reset. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of system reset to handle found error. One would have been motivated to do so to reset the system to prevent whole system crash when some severe bugs occur (see for example, Fig.3 step 380, "Reset Button Pressed?" option "Yes").

Claim 17:

Schieve further discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising:

- executing the BIOS program code until the diagnosis code of the breakpoint matches a predetermined diagnosis code before resetting the parameter of the event corresponding to the diagnosis code (see for example, Fig.9, step 70, step 76 "Has breakpoint occurred within called object code?" and related text) , and executing the event corresponding to the diagnosis code according to the reset parameter for making the event undergo the error processing path (see for example, Fig.9, step 78, "Should a fault be inserted?"; step 80 "pick one of the exceptions for this method and throw it" and related text).

Claims 18-19:

Schieve and Sanchez disclose the same method for program debugging as addressed in Claims 1 and 2 above. All the limitations have been disclosed by Schieve and Sanchez. Therefore, claims 18-19 also would have been obvious in view of reference teachings above. For example, the method comprising:

- setting a plurality of breakpoints corresponding to a plurality of events in an implementation under test, each event being a test executed to a peripheral device (see for example, Schieve , Fig.4, steps 410-490 and related text) and taking a general processing path when the peripheral device is working well (see for example, Fig.9, step 78, "Should a fault be inserted?" path "No" and related text) or an error processing path when the peripheral device is in an error state (see for example, Sanchez , Fig.9, step 70, step 78, "Should a fault be inserted?" path "Yes" and related text);
- setting a parameter to simulate that the peripheral device is working well throughout execution of the implementation under test (see for example, Sanchez, Fig.9, step 78, "Should a fault be inserted?" and related text);
- executing the implementation under test according to the parameter for outputting a diagnosis code corresponding to each breakpoint (see for example, (see for example, Fig.9, step 78, step 80 and related text) ;
- for each breakpoint, determining whether the diagnosis code matches a user defined diagnosis code (see for example, Sanchez, Fig.9, steps, 76 "has

Art Unit: 2192

- breakpoint occurred within called object code?", step 78, "Should a fault be inserted?" and related text); and
- resetting the parameter to simulate that the peripheral device is in the error state and executing the event corresponding to the diagnosis code according to the reset parameter for making the event undergo the error processing path when it is determined that the diagnosis code matches the user defined diagnosis code (see for example, Sanchez, Fig.9, step 78, "Should a fault be inserted?", path "Yes"; step 80, "Pick one of the exceptions for this method and throw it" and related text).
 - continuing execution of the implementation under test to a next breakpoint without resetting the parameter when it is determined that the diagnosis code does not match the user defined diagnosis code (see for example, Sanchez, Fig.9, step 78, "Should a fault be inserted?" path "No" and related text).

Claims 20-21:

Schieve and Sanchez disclose the same method for program debugging as addressed in Claims 18 and 19 above. All the limitations have been disclosed by Schieve and Sanchez. Therefore, claims 20 and 21 also would have been obvious in view of reference teachings above.

8. Claims 3-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schieve (Schieve et al. US 5,463,766) in view of Sanchez (Sanchez et al.,

Art Unit: 2192

US 6,477,666) and in further view of Phillips (Phillips et al., US 5,321,828)

Claim 3-4:

Schieve discloses the method for program debugging as in claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose the breakpoints are set ahead of program codes of the corresponding events or after program codes of the corresponding events.

However, Phillips in the same analogous art of an in-circuit emulator for hardware/software development and debugging microprocessors discloses that a user to set any number of breakpoints all at the same place in the program, or at different places (see for example, col.26-col.27, section "Setting Breakpoints" and related descriptions). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set breakpoints anywhere in the code in order to adequately support execution control functionality and provide the rich set of functionality needed for the debugger. One would have been motivated to set breakpoints before or after the program codes of the corresponding events to narrow down the places where the bugs might occur.

Claim 8:

Schieve and Sanchez disclose the method for program debugging as in claim 1 above which has an error handler to display error message, but do not explicitly disclose the error handler is a system execution interrupt. However, Phillips in the same analogous art of an in-circuit emulator for hardware/software development and debugging microprocessors discloses that execution interrupt

Art Unit: 2192

(see for example, col.72, lines 60-67, "single interrupt request line"). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of system execution interrupt to allow the control processor to monitor the Clock Detect signals which is suggested by Phillips. One would have been motivated to do so to stop executing or suspend current process to trace the problem.

9. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schieve (Schieve et al. US 5,838,975) in view of Sanchez (Sanchez et al., US 6,477,666) and in further view of Robinson (Jeffrey I. Robinson, US 5,768,591)

Claim 6:

Schieve and Sanchez disclose the method for program debugging as in claim 1 above, but do not explicitly disclose that the error handler is an audible tone.

However, Robinson discloses a similar method for program debugging as in claim 1 above which the error handler is an audible tone. (Fig.4, items 172, 164, col.12, lines 64-67, "A sound generator 164 is provided and controlled by the message parser and error handler 172"). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use "sound generator" to replace Schieve's method of error handler. One would have been motivated to do so to generate alarm to alert the user when the bug occurs.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims rejection have been considered but are not persuasive. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zheng Wei whose telephone number is (571) 270-1059 and Fax number is (571) 270-2059. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-15:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3695. The

Art Unit: 2192

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571- 272-1000.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Z. W./
Examiner, Art Unit 2192

/Tuan Q. Dam/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192